

STONE BASKET EXTRACTION INSTRUCTIONS

You have just had a STONE BASKET EXTRACTION, a procedure to remove a stone from the ureter, the tube that connects the kidney to the bladder and drains urine from the kidney to the bladder.

This procedure is accomplished in several steps:

A small telescope is inserted into the ureter to visualize the stone

If the stone can be easily removed it is grasped with a stone “basket” and removed from the ureter

If the stone is too large to be easily and safely removed it has been fragmented utilizing a laser. The laser breaks the stone into smaller pieces that can be easily and safely removed.

On occasion, passing the telescope into the ureter cannot be accomplished without gently stretching the bottom part of the ureter.

If the stone is large, has been in the ureter long enough to irritate the ureter, or the ureter has to be stretched, it may be necessary to place a JJ (Double J) stent. This is temporary and the stent will be removed.

A JJ stent is placed to allow edema (swelling in the area where the stone was removed) to resolve. The amount of time for the swelling to resolve varies but is usually 7-10 days. At this point the JJ stent can be safely removed.

WHAT TO EXPECT

1. There will almost always be burning with urination after this procedure. This will be treated with medication and usually resolves within 5-7 days.
2. There may be bleeding from the area the stone was removed that is visible in the urine. With good fluid intake this should resolve within 5-7 days.
3. If a JJ stent was required to allow swelling to resolve, expect irritation from the stent. The stent is expected to cause:

Discomfort with urination. You will be given medication to decrease this. But even with medication, stents cause discomfort.

A feeling of urgency or the sensation of needing to void quickly. In addition, there may be a continual sensation of the need to void. The medication you will be given will help but

may not completely alleviate this constant feeling of needing to urinate.

Pain in the back on the side from which the stone was removed. This is due to the fact that stents allow urine to pass from the kidney to the bladder but also allow urine to back up into the kidney with urination. This “reflux” of urine into the kidney does not damage the kidney but will cause discomfort or pain.

You will be given medication to help decrease this

NOTE: Discomfort from JJ stents can be very annoying for the period of time that the stent is in place. Be assured that your stent will be removed as soon as it has done the job it was placed there to do: allow the edema or swelling from the stone or the procedure to resolve.

Remember that you have been given medications to decrease the expected irritation from your stone removal procedure. Follow the instructions, take the medication as needed and drink plenty of fluids. If a JJ stent needed to be placed this will cause irritation and discomfort until it is removed.

MEDICATIONS COMMONLY USED

1. Pyridium (Phenazopyridine). This is prescribed to decrease burning with urination. It will cause an orange color of the urine. Don't mistake this for blood in the urine!
2. Hydrocodone/acetaminophin (Vicodin, Lorcet, Norco). This is a narcotic prescribed to decrease pain. It will cause drowsiness and you should not drive or drink alcohol when taking this medication. It will also cause constipation and you should take a stool softener or a mild laxative while taking the narcotic.
3. Uribel, UTA, Prosed (methenamine/hyoscyamine). This is prescribed to decrease the discomfort in the bladder from the procedure or to decrease the discomfort from a JJ stent (if present). This medication will cause a bluish discoloration in the urine.
4. Flomax (tamsulosin). This is prescribed to decrease the discomfort from a JJ stent if a stent was needed. If you are given Flomax use caution when you sit up and stand up due to the possibility of becoming light-headed or dizzy. In most patients if this does occur it will resolve after the 1st or 2nd dose of this medication.